

**Enrolled Memorandum of the Meeting
Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Ninth Town Council of Highland
Monday, February 17, 2020**

The Twenty-Ninth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in a study session on **Monday, February 17, 2020** at 6:32 O'clock P.M., in the regular place, the meeting chambers of the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Mark Schocke, Thomas Black and Roger Sheeman were present. The Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Officials Present: John P. Reed, Town Attorney; and John M. Bach, Public Works Director were present.

Additional Officials Present: Ed Dabrowski, IT Consultant (Contract); and Larry Kondrat and Rick Volbrecht of the Board of Waterworks Directors, were present.

Guests: Robin Carlascio of the Idea Factory was also in attendance.

General Substance of Matters Discussed.

1. **Banners in Downtown.** Continue to discuss and work on establishing formally a program providing certain honorific banner displays on public light poles on Kennedy Avenue, Jewett Street and Highway Avenue.

The Town Council President noted that he believed that the type of banners being discussed involved high school athletes, business sponsored banners, and veterans.

It was noted that the current display of banners, featuring businesses were authorized by action of the Redevelopment Commission and were authorized for display until June 2020. The Redevelopment Director was invited out of the Redevelopment Commission meeting which was occurring at the same time, and she clarified that the Business banners were part of a branding initiative and it was approved by resolution by the Redevelopment Commission.

The discussion included the merits of having businesses as sponsors of the high school athletic banners. It was noted that some are sponsored that way and others either have no sponsor or have a parent sponsor.

It was noted that there were approximately 119 or 118 poles in the Highway Avenue and Jewett Avenues located in the downtown area.

With leave from the Town Council, there was an extended colloquy between the person representing the Highland athletic boosters in which it was suggested that 75 banners for the Spring season and 65 banners for the Fall season would be all that would be required for the athletes for which the boosters hoped to have banners.

A person representing the veterans banner initiative indicated that it was her preference to also have her banners on Highway and Jewett Avenues and not on Kennedy Avenue.

Kennedy Avenue no Longer part of the Banner policy. It was noted that since there was little interest from the groups represented in the room for displays on Kennedy Avenue, there would be no further effort to purchase hardware and install it to support banners on Kennedy Avenue.

The discussion included an observation that many downtown businesses do not have lighted or visible signs that can be seen while walking on the sidewalks. Rather, most signs are affixed, flat on the building face.

While noting that the posts at Main Square are under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Board, the Town Council discussed appealing to the Board to consider equipping its lighting poles with the hardware to permit veteran banners to be displayed there.

The Town Council informally agreed that a contact person for the groups interested in the banner display program, could contact Councilor Herak. He agreed. This included an informal exploration of how the process of administering requested would be managed, suggesting that Councilor Herak would approve the requests and then instruct the Public Works Department to erect the banners. The discussion included the merits of having an "agreement" with groups displaying banners, having a "hold harmless" provision.

The Town Council discussed whether fees to recover costs associated with the exertion of public resources to manage and install the banners should be imposed. There was some discussion of the costs associated with the service. The Public Works Director indicated that he would try to calculate some basis if fees were desirable.

The person representing the veteran banners initiative, asked whether the veterans banners could go up in May on any banners not currently displaying any of the business banners. Further she asked whether she needed to wait for the passage of an ordinance establishing a policy process.

The Town Council president suggested that any ordinance could be considered and rendered soon, perhaps at the plenary meeting of February 24, 2020.

2. *Discussion regarding an issue with an appointee serving on a board.* Councilor Herak inquired whether the matter of the status of an appointee on a board or commission could be discussed. The discussion included whether this could be the subject of an executive session. While no definitive answer was offered, the Town Attorney counseled that the matter should be an agenda item for a future meeting either the plenary meeting or a study session.

There being no further business necessary or desired to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council of **Monday, February 17, 2020**, was adjourned at 7:20 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO
Clerk-Treasurer